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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 006649

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EB/TRA/OTP AND EUR/SE
ROME FOR ICE ROBERT STIRITI
PARIS FOR TSA
DHS FOR CSI - TODD HORTON
DEPT PASS TRANSPORTATION DEPT

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EWWT](#) [PTER](#) [ETRD](#) [PREL](#) [ETTC](#) [KTIA](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: GOT Concerns on Some Aspects of CSI

Ref: (A) Ankara 5691 (C) State 198802

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Summary

1. (SBU) At briefings on the Container Security Initiative by visiting Immigration, Customs and Enforcement Attache, Turkish officials reaffirmed their interest in the program, but expressed sensitivities about stationing U.S. personnel in Turkish customs areas and said a bilateral agreement would need to be negotiated. The Turks provided data on security infrastructure and transport at the port of Izmir. Although the Turks are moving forward on our proposal, including through a visit to existing CSI ports, they will proceed with caution. Mission recommends that DHS consider the command/control, administration and security aspects of a presence in Turkey carefully, including the merits of posting a representative in Ankara when and if personnel are deployed to Izmir. End Summary.

GOT Concerns on CSI

2. (SBU) ICE Attache Robert Stiriti briefed a GOT interagency group, including officials from MFA, the Foreign Trade Undersecretariat (FTU), the Customs U/S, the Security General Directorate of the Interior Ministry, and the Maritime U/S, on expanding the Container Security Initiative (CSI) to the Turkish port of Izmir on November 23. Turkish officials, including Acting Customs U/S Riza Tuna Turagay and MFA Deputy Director General for Aviation and Maritime Affairs Vakur Gozdenizler, reaffirmed Turkey's interest in joining CSI. However, they told us it would be difficult to reconcile CSI (stationing U.S. customs officers) with domestic legislation restricting access to customs areas. MFA suggested that it might be more feasible to station customs officer near, but not in, Turkish ports or customs areas. MFA stated that a bilateral agreement to inaugurate CSI would need to be negotiated and submitted either to Parliament for ratification, or to the GOT Council of Ministers for approval. Turagay and Gokdenizler requested technical, training and financial assistance with respect to preparing staff and securing non-intrusive inspection equipment.

3. (U) The GOT is sending Cahit Gokcelik, Deputy Director General at the Customs U/S, to observe arrangements at several functioning CSI ports in Western Europe as part of the interagency process to evaluate CSI.

4. (U) ICE Attache emphasized that U.S. customs officers would not have the authority to unilaterally order inspection of containers or to conduct any inspections; the two sides cooperating in CSI would jointly decide which containers are searched and Turkish customs officers would conduct actual inspections under the observation of U.S. personnel. He told the Turks that it might be possible for the U.S. side to lend equipment, and/or to support equipment purchase through other U.S. or multilateral assistance programs.

Izmir: Port Equipment and Transport Data

5. (SBU) The Turkish side provided ICE Attache with the following data concerning the port of Izmir:

Equipment: Fixed radiation detectors are installed and used at entry and exit points at the port. An X-ray detector is used to screen passengers and their baggage, but there is no such device available to screen containers. As required, law enforcement authorities

have narcotics-detection, explosive-detection, ionscan, fiberoptic and other equipment, as well as a narcotics sniffer dog available for screening purposes. GAS-DATA equipment used to combat human trafficking is not available.

Transport volumes: Customs officials confirmed that Izmir is the largest port servicing Turkish exports to the United States. In 2003, 531,000 tons of merchandise were exported through Izmir. In the first nine months of 2004, exports totaled 465,000 tons.

Comment

16. (SBU) We believe ICE Attache's briefings were beneficial in explaining to the GOT how CSI works and what is expected from them. The GOT is genuinely interested in CSI, primarily because of the trade facilitation dimension of the program, but will probably proceed cautiously and in a legalistic manner as it has in other export control and related programs.

17. (SBU) As discussed with ICE Attache, DHS should also consider carefully the U.S. internal administrative and security concerns raised by stationing Customs and Border Protection officers in Izmir, and particularly whether it is advisable to station a CBP representative in Ankara as part of the Mission's country team. Mission fully supports objectives of CSI, and is eager to discuss how to most effectively implement the program if we obtain a more definitive response that the Turks are prepared to proceed. Edelman